

244
NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF N. J.,

Minutes of the Special Committee appointed to engage
an Associate Secretary for the League.

Dec.
Nov. 18, 1918.

The Committee met at 212 Bank Street, at 3 P.M. on the above date. Those present were: Miss Helen B. Pendleton, Mr. R. W. Stewart, Mrs. R. C. Jenkinson, Dr. Veil, president of the Society, Mr. MacDougall the treasurer ex-officio, Mrs. Little present by invitation, Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones of the National Urban League of New York.

Miss Pendleton stated that Mrs. Gregory is ill and cannot come to the meeting, but that she is heartily in favor of engaging Miss Pinyon who was warmly recommended by the Urban League for the position here. She feels that to her should not be left the entire responsibility of raising her own salary. Miss Pendleton further stated that all of the members of the Committee have interviewed Miss Pinyon except Dr. Alexander. A letter was written to him stating that Miss Pinyon would be in town today and asking if he could kindly call upon her at 13 Central Avenue between 1:45 and 2:30. ^{Nov. 18, 1918} As a quorum was present, however, the meeting proceeded.

A discussion followed as to whether the rest of the Committee would also endorse Miss Pinyon. Mrs. Jenkinson stated that she thought Miss Pinyon would be a splendid person to come here. She states this from her knowledge of her Y.W.C.A. work and from her impression of Miss Pinyon. Miss Pendleton stated that we need a person here and approved of Miss Pinyon also, and that she should not have too hard a task put upon her of raising money. Mr. Jones was asked to give his knowledge of Miss Pinyon's capabilities and stated that in his opinion she is an especially fine woman both in spirit and accomplishments.

Mr. Stewart stated that he is favorably impressed and quite sure that she can get along in Newark. He questioned, however, her being brought here as an associate secretary. As Mr. Ashby is still the Executive Secretary he feels that if a difference of opinion should arise as to the work, it might not be altogether agreeable. Mr. Jones stated that he was well acquainted with such situations in his own experiences in the League and that no trouble would arise if the spirit of the people engaged are right in the matter. He also felt that the colored people ought to want the very best person they could find to represent them.

The Committee then agreed that since Mr. Ashby is on leave of absence indefinitely and that there must be some one here to take entire charge of the work, it would be wise to have Miss Pinyon assume the whole responsibility. Mrs. Jenkinson moved, Mr. Stewart seconded, and the motion was carried that Miss Pinyon be requested to become the Associate Secretary of the League at a salary of \$1500. a year; that it is understood that she is actual as well as nominal, a secretary, and that she should assume the whole responsibility in Mr. Ashby's absence. When he is released matters relating to their relationships can come up for review.

(Dr. W. H. Vail, President.
(A. W. MacDougall - Treasurer
(Henel B. Pendleton - Secretary
(Mrs. R. W. Jenkinson.
(Mr. R. W. Stewart,

COMMITTEE.

NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE

OF

NEW JERSEY - -

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 18, 1918.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was held for the first time in the new building, 212 Bank Street, at 4 P.M.

Those present were: Dr. Lusk, Chairman who presided, Dr. W. H. Vail, president of the Society, Mr. C. M. Brown, Mr. R. C. Jenkinsen, Mrs. Little, Miss Helen B. Pendleton, Mr. Stewart, Mr. van B. Powell, Mr. A. W. MacDougall, Mrs. E. P. Shrubey, Mr. Wm. Ashby, Mrs. Monroe who was present by invitation, and Mr. Carl Bannwart who came in late. Miss Hilda K. Mills representing the Russell Sage Foundation Survey of the Poor and Alma Department of Newark; Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones of the National Urban League of New York City were also present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved after a slight correction. The treasurer's report was read and ordered filed with the minutes. The Chairman then asked Mrs. Shrubey for a report of the Phyllis Wheatley Home Association Committee. Mrs. Shrubey read a most interesting report which was very favorably commented on by the Committee and ordered to be filed with the minutes. Especial attention was called to Mrs. Shrubey's success in raising over one hundred dollars from the Mt. Zion Baptist Church for the Building Fund, and the results of the entertainment held by the Phyllis Wheatley Literary Club which netted nearly \$500.

Mr. MacDougall, as treasurer of the Society, asked about the arrangements for the funds received and spent for the Home being duly recorded and audited. Miss Pendleton explained that the Committee on cooperation between the Phyllis Wheatley Home Association and the League has only met once and as Chairman of the Committee, on account of her illness, she has not been able to call a meeting. Mr. Jones of the National Urban League offered to give such advice as to the funds of the Society and the relations between two cooperating bodies and also to have the New York accountant visit our Society and advise. This suggestion was very cordially received by the Committee.

Dr. Lusk then stated that the Committee with which he

associated with who has given the money to engage a matron for two months has not voted to continue this arrangement, and he has no authority to pay any more. It was moved, seconded, and carried that the Executive Committee appreciate what has already been paid and would request Dr. Lusk to suggest to the Committee, that we would appreciate it still further if they would continue the financing of the matron's salary for two months more. Mr. Stewart suggested that the Committee be asked to visit our Committee and learn what we are doing, which might increase their interest. This suggestion was favorably received.

At this point the report of the Committee of five appointed at the last meeting to engage an associate secretary for the League, was stated by Miss Pendleton. See report.

It was moved, seconded, and carried, that the report of the Committee be accepted to the effect that Miss Pinyon shall be engaged to come to the League as Associate Secretary at a salary of \$1500. a year, and that any matters relating to the Associate Secretary to the Executive Secretary can come up for review when Mr. Ashby returns to the Society. Mr. MacDougall expressed the hope that Miss Pinyon would not be forced to struggle along here to raise her own salary. Mr. Vail felt that with a lady of Miss Pinyon's ability and personality that there would be no great difficulty in raising such funds.

Miss Pinyon was then asked to come in to the meeting and the Chairman asked the Secretary to state the results of the meeting requesting her to come here. Miss Pinyon stated that she was very much complimented and that it gave her great pleasure to accept the newly offered position with the League. She spoke for a few minutes of what a social worker might expect to do in a new community and hoped that she might be able to add something to Newark's social work from her experience.

The next subject brought up for consideration were two recommendations passed upon at the meeting of the National Urban League at Columbus, Ohio, November 25th and 26th, 1910.

"RESOLVED that we in conference assembled recommend that each local affiliated with the National League be requested to contribute 2% of its gross annual receipts of the budget to the National Urban League; and that such a payment be made with the understanding that each member of the locals automatically becomes a member of the National.

If in the case of locals which do not employ paid workers or have an organization not directly sustained by contributions, the committee recommends that a minimum fee of \$10. be contributed to entitle such locals and their members to membership in the National."

After an explanation that the gross annual receipts meant merely the budget and did not include special funds such as the Building Fund or others that might be collected, it was unanimously voted to accept this suggestion from the national body. The next resolution was as follows:

"RESOLVED that the Conference of the local and national representatives of the National League on Urban Conditions among Negroes request the Executive board of the League to alter the name of the League to read as follows: "NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE" and that each city organization be named or be requested to change its name as soon as it can conveniently do so, to read "----(city) Urban League--this with the understanding that wherever this name appears in print the term "for Social Service among Negroes" be placed in small type in connection with the title."

Miss Pendleton read from a letter that she had written to each member of the Executive Committee when they were notified of the meeting, which reads as follows:

"Our present name you know is "NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY". For two reasons I am anxious for the change, which is really a very simple matter and can be easily accomplished in one or two meetings. First, the name Negro Welfare League of New Jersey, is not altogether agreeable to a large number of colored people. Not because the colored people object to the word "Negro", which is more and more becoming honored and respected in our country and to which they as a race are loyal, but because it seems to emphasize a racial difference and possibly separate the work from other Civic efforts. Thenceforward, our League really stands for the working together of colored people, and white people not as colored people, nor as white people, but as citizens, and I think we want to emphasize that more and more. In fact, I am hoping that the day will soon come, when those of us who are in this work shall be so interested in what we are doing, that we shall entirely forget the fact that some of us have darker complexions than others. That is the democratic goal we should strive to reach, and even though it may seem far distant, I think that if we have a name that does not hinder the thought, it will start us in the right direction."

The National Urban League is rapidly becoming known all over the country and in twenty cities now there is a branch, and I hope in this part of New Jersey we can fall in line, especially as we are so near the parent stem in New York. As we are striving for close cooperation and the working together of all the colored people in the neighborhood, we could simply be called the Essex County Urban League of New Jersey."

It was voted that the Executive Committee concur also

in this matter and recommend to the Board that the name should be changed to the ^{Urban} League or Essex County ^{Urban} League or such other name as the Committee may desire to recommend later.

Mrs. Jenkinson requested Mr. Jones to make a statement concerning the Urban League which he kindly did. Mr. Ashby read a letter from Mr. Samwart concerning the "Civic Celebration Committee." This was unofficially referred to Mr. Stewart.

Mr. C. M. Brown read a newspaper clipping concerning the lynching of a soldier in Kentucky. Mr. Ashby brought up the question of naming the exact date for an opening meeting in January. Miss Pendleton suggested that this matter be left for Miss Pinyon and Mr. Ashby to settle January 1st. Mr. Ashby, however, thought it should be named immediately, but as the hour was late and the Chairman and Secretary were obliged to leave, the Committee finally decided to adjourn.

Helen B. Pendleton
Secretary.

APPENDIX

Notation on Missing Minutes

1917

Duplicate copy of May 7th Meeting

Minutes of November 1 and 8 not complete

Minutes for meeting of November 15 missing

Page 2 of meeting of December 10th meeting missing

1918

Two dates on minutes for meeting for January 28

February minutes of Executive Committee of Negro Welfare League missing. Minutes of Friendly Visitors Committee meeting for that date.

Duplicate report for meeting of May 16.

1919

Minutes for March missing.

Minutes for May and June missing. There are reports of Executive Secretary for these months.

Third page of report of Executive Secretary for July is missing.

Minutes for November meeting missing.

1920

Minutes of March meeting missing.

1921

Minutes for June missing. Reports for two meetings in May.

1922

Minutes for February and March missing.

1923

Duplicate copy of a letter to Governor Silzer.

1923

Two different sets of minutes for the meeting of June 7.
Two reports for meeting of November.

1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 Complete

1930

Minutes for November Meeting missing.

1931, 1932 Complete

1933

Third page of minutes of February meeting missing.

1934

Extra page of minutes for Meeting of April 9.
Question as to whether a page is missing or not.

1935 Complete

1936

Minutes for April meeting missing.

1937 Complete also 1938, 1939